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211324Z May 05

UNCLAS MANAMA 000723

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: NEGOTIATIONS AT UNESCO ON CONVENTION ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY

REF: STATE 89776

1. (U) Pol/Econ chief May 18 delivered reftel demarche concerning UNESCO negotiations on the Convention on Cultural Diversity to MFA Director for Multilateral Affairs Ghassan Shaikho. He said he was aware of a split on this subject between the U.S. and EU and said he would discuss it with Ministry of Commerce officials responsible for WTO issues before developing a GOB position. He noted his concern that the Convention on Cultural Diversity could have a negative impact on trade, which Bahrain would oppose.

2. (U) EconOff delivered reftel demarche May 18 to Ministry of Commerce Director for Foreign Trade Relations Abdul Razak Zainalabedin, who offered no substantive response.

MONROE